



Lowell City Council

Regular Meeting Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: January 2, 2018

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: City Council Chamber, 375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA

1. ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed 9 present.

Mayor Samaras presiding.

2. CITY CLERK

2.1. Minutes of Zoning SC December 12th; City Council Meeting December 12th, for acceptance.

In City Council, minutes read, **Motion** "To accept as amended and place on file" by C. Kennedy, seconded by C. Mercier. So voted.

3. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER

3.1. Communication-Appoint Cormac Hondros-McCarthy to Sustainability Council.

In Council, **Motion** to adopt by C. Kennedy, seconded by C. Conway. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas. So voted. Mr. Hondros-McCarthy was present and thanked the Council.

4. ORDERS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

4.1. Order-60 day trial (various)

In City Council, Read twice, full reading waived with no objections, **Motion** to adopt by C. Kennedy, seconded by C. Mercier. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas. So voted.

5. REPORTS (SUB/COMMITTEE, IF ANY)

None.



6. CITY COUNCIL - MOTIONS

6.1. C. Mercier - Req. City Mgr. allow people of Laotian descent to acquire a site at the JFK Plaza to construct their monument.

In City Council, seconded by C. Kennedy, referred to City Manager. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas. So voted. C. Mercier noted the need to make a formal motion and requested a roll call vote. C. Elliott noted the cultural importance with the motion.

6.2. C. Leahy - Req. City Council take a vote regarding the location of the preferred site of Lowell High School.

In City Council, C. Leahy requested the motion be withdrawn with no objections. So voted.

6.3. C. Elliott - Req. City Mgr. provide a report regarding the policy of City vehicles being taken home; the number of vehicles issued to employees; and the associated costs.

In City Council, seconded by C. Cirillo, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Elliott noted the need to keep public updated about costs involved and the policy that is in effect.

6.4. C. Elliott - Req. City Mgr. provide a report on the expenditures to date regarding the feasibility study on Lowell High School and the amount reimbursed to the City from the MSBA.

In City Council, seconded by C. Mercier, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Elliott commented on the need to have exact reimbursement figure from MSBA and to set that rate so has process moves along there would be a cleared picture of costs involved. C. Leahy noted the importance of costs in further feasibility studies.

6.5. C. Kennedy - Req. City Mgr. and the Mayor notify the Massachusetts School Building Authority that the City Council intends to explore changing Lowell's preferred project option for the Lowell High School building project.

In City Council, seconded by C. Conway, referred to City Manager. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas. So voted. C. Kennedy noted the MSBA meeting and correspondence with the City regarding future proceedings for change of location. C. Milinazzo questioned the wording of the motion. C. Kennedy outlined purpose of motion. C. Elliott commented on issues with delays in the project. C. Kennedy requested Roll Call vote.



6.6. C. Kennedy - Req. School Committee endorse City Council's intent to explore changing Lowell's preferred project option for the Lowell High School building project and direct the Superintendent to notify the Massachusetts School Building Authority of the School Committee's endorsement.

In City Council, seconded by C. Milinazzo, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Kennedy commented on prior motion and the need for the School Committee to be involved in the same process.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

In City Council, **Motion** to suspend rules to discuss heating in public buildings by C. Elliott, seconded by C. Conway. So voted. M. Samaras commented heating issues in the high school. Manager Murphy noted the issues are present in high school and other public buildings. James Green (DPW – Head of Buildings) commented on the problems and the manner that they are being addressed. Manager Murphy noted that high school would be closed tomorrow to address heat issues. M. Samaras questioned procedures to protect citizens from the cold. Manager Murphy noted the safety operations in place to protect people from elements. C. Nuon questioned heating issue in public library. Mr. Green outlined those issues and their cause. C. Mercier noted the need to protect all citizens during these cold spells. C. Kennedy noted the unprecedented cold and its effect on all communities and commented on a long term solution to issues and that money may still be available in school budget to address quickly. C. Elliott questioned the closing of schools. C. Leahy questioned the arrival of parts for the equipment. Mr. Green noted the equipment was older and parts take a little longer to arrive. C. Leahy questioned if any reimbursement would be available for work being done. C. Milinazzo noted that they were doing a good job and questioned the status of the Amerisco contract. Manager Murphy noted he would update Council on contract.

8. ADJOURNMENT

In City Council, **Motion** to Adjourn by C. Kennedy, seconded by C. Mercier. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Michael Geary, City Clerk